

NCR Inventory and Monitoring Program Online Newsletter

Number 001

6 September 2002

(1) INVENTORY AND MONITORING TEAM: Who are we?

(2) MONITORING WORKSHOP: One Step Closer

(3) BIRD INVENTORIES: National Capital Network Bird Inventories Nearing Completion

(4) THE WEB PAGE: I & M Goes Live

1. Who are we?

The National Park Service is implementing an Inventory and Monitoring program at over 270 parks organized into 32 networks. The National Capital Region is one of the first twelve networks to receive funding. The I & M staff consists of a Regional Inventory and Monitoring Coordinator, a Monitoring Coordinator, a Biological Inventories Coordinator, a Data Manager, and two Biotechnicians. The staff is charged with synthesizing existing data of vertebrates and vascular plants into online databases and implementing field surveys to fill information gaps. The staff is also conducting a planning process to establish a comprehensive and long-term monitoring program of the region's most important natural resources. The staff is housed at the region's Center for Urban Ecology along with the regional Natural Resources and Science staff. This newsletter will provide frequent updates on our activities in addition to the annual reports and work plans.

For more information about the program and its staff please see our web page:

<http://www.nps.gov/im/units/nw12/index.html> or contact Dr. Ellen Gray (Ellen_Gray@nps.gov)

2. One Step Closer

The National Capital Network has just passed its first major milestone by hosting a 3-day Monitoring Workshop designed to develop and enhance existing partnerships in order to preserve and enhance the region's most significant natural resources. The workshop sparked a huge interest and was attended by over 100 participants representing more than 30 different agencies including several divisions within the Park Service, many universities, state and federal agencies, non-governmental agencies, and individuals. The workshop was successful in receiving technical input to the planning process through a series of breakout sessions covering air, water, geology, landscape, vegetation, wildlife, invertebrates, and rare, threatened, and endangered species. Participants prioritized the region's most significant resources, their threats, ecological effects, and potential vital

signs to monitor ecosystem health. A Monitoring Workshop report will soon be available. The results of the workshop are already being integrated into the first two chapters of the network's Monitoring Plan. Technical committees will continue to meet to build on the momentum generated by the workshop. The continued collaboration will likely allow the network to leverage additional resources into monitoring the region's complex ecosystem.

For more information about the monitoring program including the Monitoring Workshop, please see our web page:

<http://www.nps.gov/im/units/nw12/index.html>. For questions please contact Marcus Koenen (Marcus.Koenen@nps.gov; 202-342-1443 x216)

3. National Capital Network Bird Inventories Nearing Completion

During the early stages of the National Capital Network's Inventory and Monitoring Program, a data review determined that additional baseline information was needed on bird species at six parks. A large number of avid bird watchers and clubs within the region provided a cost effective means to complete the inventory. More than 20 volunteers have joined efforts with the National Park Service at Antietam National Battlefield, Catoctin Mountain Park, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Manassas National Battlefield, Prince William Forest Park, and Wolf Trap Farm Park. The volunteers began visiting the parks in January 2001 and have collectively spent 1,892 hours in the field through August 2002. These skilled birders have identified 140 species including many which have never been recorded in the parks. Furthermore, the volunteers have made special efforts to confirm nesting species particularly those identified as species of concern by Partners in Flight. Due to the efforts of the volunteers, our goal of identifying at least 90% of the expected resident bird species at Antietam, Catoctin, Manassas, and Prince William has been met; efforts continue at Harpers Ferry and Wolf Trap.

For additional information about the Inventories Program including the amphibian, bat, fish, mammal, and plant inventories, please contact John Sinclair (John.Sinclair@nps.gov; 202-342-1443 x222)

4. I & M Goes Live

The National Capital Network Inventory and Monitoring Program has recently posted a web site to the internet. The web page provides an overview of the I & M Program including its short and long-term goals and staff contacts. Detailed information is provided about the Monitoring Program including the Board of Directors, Science Advisory Committee, and Monitoring Workshop. The will host reports and links to all of the products developed by the I & M Program as they become completed. Check it out at <http://www.nps.gov/im/units/nw12/index.html> and let us know what you think.

For comments on the I & M web page please contact Mikaila Milton (Mikaila_Milton@nps.gov; 202-3420-1443 x225)

This Newsletter is sent quarterly by the National Capital Network Inventory and Monitoring Program. The staff is based at the NPS Center for Urban Ecology, 4598 MacArthur Blvd. NW, Washington DC 20007. If you would like to be added to or deleted from the mailing list please contact Marcus Koenen (Marcus_Koenen@nps.gov; 202-342-1443 x216)

Marcus Koenen
Monitoring Coordinator
4598 MacArthur Blvd. NW
Washington DC 20007
202-342-1443 x216
